



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director
TELEPHONE: (406)444-1520
FAX: (406)444-1394
E-mail: ckylwest@mt.gov

P.O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MT
59624-1728

DATE 06-30-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Main Street Montana Spring Edition Showcases Yellowstone County

From the time the first settlers came to Yellowstone County to present day, the county has seen growth and transition in several different sectors. In the beginning Agriculture was the key industry, then came the railroad and soon after that oil refineries. Now alternative energy along with two major medical centers, is providing new opportunities for the County and its residents. The spring edition of **Main Street Montana** highlights the people and the programs in Yellowstone County dedicated to improving Montana's workforce.

"Montana is one of the states pioneering the alternative energy movement and we need to make sure that our workforce is trained in the latest technology to ensure its success," says Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "In this edition, we focus on what the needs of the workforce are and how both public and private industries are trying to meet those needs. By providing training opportunities to both employees and employers we can meet the demands of Montana's workforce." This edition also takes a look at how the County's top ten employers retain their employees and what the Native American Development Corporation and the Workforce Innovation Regional Economic Development (WIRED) program are doing to bridge the economic gap in Native American Communities.

Laurel is also featured in the spring 2008 edition of **Main Street Montana**. This year marks the town's Centennial Anniversary. Readers will have the chance to see how the town grew from its humble beginnings, who its most infamous residents were and why Laurel still has that small town feeling despite its continuing growth.

Main Street Montana is a bi-annual publication produced by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. An Electronic copy of the publication is available at www.mainstreet.mt.gov

####